

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1998 LB 1070, 1108, 1324

CLERK: Senator Maurstad, I now have AM3519 with a note, Senator, that you want to offer instead AM4094?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: That's correct, Mr. Clerk.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK: (AM) 4094, Senator. (See pages 1310-12 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Maurstad to open.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. Before everybody turns their antennas off, I want to be sure you're aware that the amendment that I'm proposing I have worked with Senator Wesely on. I believe that he will indicate support of this amendment. This is an issue that I talked about on LB 1070 on General File, had an amendment similar to this which I withdrew which would have created the Native American Public Health Fund Act. Now when LB 1108 was being considered, there was an amendment that was adopted and is now a part of LB 1108 which authorized \$500,000 to be used for Native American public health. What Amendment 4094 does is provides the framework and the policy by which those dollars that are allocated in the budget can be expended. It is in fact LB 1324 that was introduced by Senator Wesely, heard by Health and Human Services on February 12 in which there were 21 proponents for the measure. The bill was advanced on a 7-0 vote to the floor of the Legislature. It is vitally important that we adopt this amendment to LB 1070 so that the funds that were provided for in the budget bill can be expended in the manner in which the Legislature determines. I'm not going to go through the individual specifics of the sections of the bill, but you'll notice that it is being used in a very consistent manner with the balance of the bill for public health reasons. I'm not going to go into the need for the funds. I'm sure that discussion occurred on LB 1108. I was not here at the time. I was in San Francisco on a workshop for privatization of prisons. While Senator Chambers needs to be here every minute of the day to make sure things go the way he wants, it appears that it's